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PATENT  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Marcel A.J. Somers, Thomas Christiansen and Per Möller  
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Filed : Herewith Int'l Filing Date: July 15, 2003  
For : CASE-HARDENING OF STAINLESS STEEL  
Priority Date  
Claimed : July 16, 2002  
Group : Not Yet Known  
Examiner : Not Yet Known

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above identified application, applicant respectfully requests that the application as amended according to the International Preliminary Examination Report be further amended as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.